



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



MIGRATION

USAID fosters prosperity, security, and improved governance by connecting Guatemalans to opportunities that enable them to sustain dignified livelihoods in their home communities.

USAID and its partners work with the Government of Guatemala, municipalities, the private sector, and civil society to implement a wide range of projects designed to create new economic opportunities, improve health and education outcomes, guarantee food security, and protect the environment. USAID also builds Government of Guatemala capacities to provide security and justice for all Guatemalans by strengthening key justice sector institutions, combating international criminal networks, and reducing crime and violence in all its forms. USAID's approach aligns with the U.S. Strategy for Addressing the Root Causes of Migration in Central America designed to facilitate conditions for Guatemalans to lead safe, dignified, and prosperous lives in their communities.

CONTEXT AND CHALLENGES

Migration is a complex phenomenon, encompassing a variety of structural factors related to the lack of economic opportunities, crime, corruption, and inadequate services at the local level. Each year, around 200,000 Guatemalan citizens are apprehended at the US southern border, including more than 50,000 unaccompanied migrant children (UAC). While USAID programming addresses these challenges in the medium and long term, disrupting the cycle of irregular migration is not possible without sustained, inclusive development. USAID's work addresses the root causes of irregular migration so that Guatemalans advance economically, live, work, and learn in safe and dignified environments, contribute

to and benefit from the democratic process, have confidence in public institutions, and enjoy opportunities to create futures for themselves and their families at home.

APPROACH AND RESULTS

USAID uses a three-pronged approach to address irregular migration in Guatemala. First, preventive actions facilitate educational and livelihood opportunities for Guatemalans in their communities, so they don't have to resort to irregular migration to access these opportunities. Second, USAID mitigates the likelihood of irregular migration by supporting communities vulnerable to food insecurity, environmental degradation, natural disasters, and displacement due to violence. Third, USAID advances the dignified return and sustainable reintegration of returned migrants by connecting them to opportunities to mitigate repeat irregular migration. USAID Guatemala prioritizes engagement with Indigenous Peoples, women, and youth to ensure that they have a voice in Guatemala's development journey. These groups have historically been left out of this conversation and remain among the country's most vulnerable to irregular migration.

Finally, USAID supports novel approaches to shape migration in support of inclusive development. Key actions include promoting legal pathways through temporary work visa programs, advancing financial literacy for the productive use of remittances, and improving security conditions in intermediate cities to promote safe and orderly internal migration. Ultimately, USAID actions advance short and long-term development to improve the quality of life of Guatemalans, their families, and their communities.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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